

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) A gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet having a face portion on which a lottery ball rolls and a plurality of lottery holes provided on the face portion, and

game result determination means for determining a game result on a basis of each of the plurality of holes receiving a lottery ball under a condition that the lottery ball enters any one of the plurality of lottery holes, further comprising:

lottery ball throwing means for throwing a plurality of lottery balls onto the face portion of the cabinet;

ball entrance detecting means for detecting whether all the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown onto the face portion of the cabinet by the lottery ball throwing means enter any of the plurality of lottery holes; and

lottery ball discharging means for discharging the plurality of lottery balls having entered any of the plurality of lottery holes,

wherein the lottery ball discharging means has a function to discharge all the plurality of lottery balls after a predetermined period of time elapses when the ball entrance detecting means detects that all the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means enter any of the plurality of respective lottery holes.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein symbols are allocated to respective cells of a matrix comprising two or more

cell numbers of rows and two or more cell numbers of columns, the cell number of the rows are equal to the cell number of the columns, and the respective symbols are allocated to the plurality of respective lottery holes, and

wherein, when a lottery ball enters any one of the plurality of lottery holes, the game result determination means has a function to activate a cell corresponding to a symbol allocated to any one of the plurality of lottery holes which the lottery ball enters and to determine a game result in accordance with a distribution condition in the matrix containing cells having been activated as a result of entrance of the lottery ball to any one of the plurality of lottery holes for a predetermined number of times.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 3, wherein the lottery ball discharging means is provided with a shutter which is freely opened/closed on a lower side of any one of the lottery holes, and

wherein, when the ball entrance detecting means detects that all of the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means enter any of the plurality of lottery holes, the lottery ball discharging means has a function to open the shutter after a predetermined period of time elapses.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine being ~~provide~~ provided with a face portion on which a lottery ball rolls,

a plurality of lottery holes provided on the face portion such that the plurality of lottery balls can enter any of the plurality of lottery holes,

a sensor for detecting entrance of the plurality of lottery balls to any of the plurality of

lottery holes, and

a shutter for holding the plurality of lottery balls in the plurality of lottery holes which the plurality of lottery balls have entered,

wherein a game result is determined on a basis of the lottery holes which the lottery balls enter, and

wherein the shutter is opened to discharge the lottery balls having entered the lottery holes from the lottery holes.

Claim 6. (Original) A gaming machine being provided with a face portion on which a lottery ball rolls,

a plurality of lottery holes provided on the face portion such that a plurality of lottery balls can enter any of the plurality of lottery holes,

a sensor for detecting entrance of the lottery ball to any one of the plurality of lottery holes, and

shutters for holding the plurality of lottery balls in the plurality of lottery holes which the plurality of lottery balls have entered,

wherein a game result is determined on a basis of a combination of a plurality of lottery holes which the plurality of lottery balls enter, and

the shutters are opened to discharge the plurality of lottery balls having entered from the plurality of lottery holes.

Claim 7. (Original) A program for controlling a gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet being composed of a face portion on which a lottery ball rolls and a plurality

of lottery holes provided on the face portion,

game result determination means for determining a game result on a basis of each of the plurality of lottery holes which a lottery ball enters under a condition that the lottery ball enters any one of the plurality of lottery holes,

lottery ball throwing means for throwing a plurality of lottery balls onto the face portion of the cabinet,

ball entrance detecting means for detecting whether all the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown onto the face portion of the cabinet by the lottery ball throwing means enter any of the plurality of lottery holes, and

lottery ball discharging means for discharging the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means and having entered any of the plurality of lottery holes,

wherein the program makes the gaming machine execute the step that the lottery ball discharging means discharges all the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means after a predetermined period of time elapses when it is detected by the ball entrance detecting means that the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means enter the plurality of respective lottery holes.

Claim 8. (Original) The program according to claim 7, wherein the program makes the gaming machine execute a step that the lottery ball discharging means discharges all the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means after a predetermined period of time elapses when the ball entrance detecting means detects that the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means enter any of

the plurality of lottery holes.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein symbols are allocated to respective cells of a matrix comprising two or more cell numbers of rows and two or more cell numbers of columns, the cell number of the row is equal to the cell number of the column, and the symbols are allocated to the plurality of respective lottery holes, and

the program makes the gaming machine execute a step of outputting to the game result determination means an instruction for controlling to activate a cell corresponding to a symbol allocated to any one of the plurality of holes which a lottery ball enters when the lottery ball enters any one of the plurality of holes, and a step of outputting to the game result determination means an instruction for controlling to determine a game result in accordance with a distribution condition of cells activated in the matrix as a result of entrance of the lottery ball to any one of the plurality of lottery holes for a predetermined number of times.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The program according to ~~any one of~~ claims 7 ~~to 9~~,

wherein the lottery ball discharging means is provided with a shutter which can be freely opened/closed on a lower side of the lottery hole, and

wherein, when the ball entrance detecting means detects that all the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means enter any of the plurality of lottery holes, the program makes the gaming machine execute a step of controlling the lottery ball discharging means to open the shutter after a predetermined period of time elapses.

Claim 11. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the lottery ball

discharging means has a function to discharge none of the plurality of lottery balls after the predetermined period of time elapses when the ball entrance detecting means detects that not all the plurality of lottery balls having been thrown by the lottery ball throwing means enter any of the plurality of respective lottery holes.